

Germany's towns and cities

Let's take Bremen: both city and port where, however, in the Schnoor district, picturesque alleys, once the home of medieval craftsmen, and 500-year-old gabled houses are to be found. Or the small township of Münzenberg in Hesse, with its castle. Or Fritzlar, with half-timbered buildings, alcoves, fountains and lanes dating

from times when people still went on foot or rode in mail-coaches. Great cities, but also fairytale-like towns no larger than a football pitch. Then again, the modern aspect as in West Berlin's Märktisches Viertel or Hansa-Viertel, created by famous architects from all over the world. A journey through Germany's towns and

cities is like a study trip, exciting and amusing. Just think of all the restaurants offering special dishes and the many small taverns on nearly every corner!



Freudenberg
Berlin

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Kremlin chief comes to see how the land lies

ZEIT

before his 75th birthday Leo-
Breznev paid Bonn his third
visit in a decade. His previous
visits were in 1973 and 1978.

1973 he toured the city in
as a visionary, inviting the
to do business in Siberia.

they had at last accepted the
there were two Germanies he
the prospect of contracts that
generations.

Mr Brezhnev, an older and
man, sought support for his
Westpolitik.

time round Bonn was the
Western capital to host the Soviet
leader the Red Army invaded
Germany.

any respects Mr Brezhnev's Bonn
visit aimed at public opinion in the
as a whole, at Western govern-
ment and Western peace movements.

Mr Brezhnev's aging head of state and
leader went to the trouble of tra-
veling at this time of the year.
Is a sign of strength or weakness
for the Soviet Union's part?

Why was Bonn given the honour
of his presence? Was it its specific
position, firmly anchored, in the West? Or
was it because, hoping Bonn might part
ways with the West?

The Federal Republic of Germany is
a land where new medium-range
missiles are, by the terms of the De-
cember 1979 Nato resolution, to be sta-
tioned in negotiations fail.

There has also been manoeuvring into
a position by contradictory
statements from the Reagan administra-

more often the abstruse and sec-
retary pronouncements of
the House, the State Department
and the Pentagon worry and upset West-
Europe, the more often America's
partners in Brussels will look to
see how it assesses the situa-

in the military debate between
superpowers Bonn has assumed an
important role as a result of the long
history of Washington from world

the Soviet Union is merely being true
to conditions by double dealing with a
superpower that has come to be the major
rival of both superpowers.

The Kremlin would like Bonn both to
company with the United States
and to forge Soviet links with Amer-
ica. It is such a self-evident contradic-

tion that it leaves clear and obvious lea-
way for responsible activity, yet for
months opinion-makers in this country
have stirred up artificial hysteria.

Some commentators even feel calls
for peace and security jeopardise the
Western alliance.

The Cold War, *Frankfurter Allge-
meine Zeitung* sadly recalled, had at
least enabled people "to understand
what was being said and to think and
act accordingly."

Others feel Mr Brezhnev is alone in
worrying about peace being in danger
and, like Rudolf Augstein, the proprietor
of *Der Spiegel*, the Hamburg news
weekly, would like to see the West make
unilateral concessions as a token of good
will.

Bonn has benefited more than most
from the policy of detente, so much so
that it can no longer afford to make fur-
ther unilateral concessions.

A mere 13 years ago Bonn's non-ac-
ceptance of the GDR blocked talks with
Moscow and threatened to isolate the
Federal Republic in a West that was oth-
erwise predisposed towards detente.

Only a few years later none other
than Helmut Schmidt warned the
United States not to place inordinately
naive hopes in detente.

It was at the Munich conference on
military affairs in 1971. As Defence
Minister in Bonn he was critical of cuts
in US defence spending and the aboli-
tion of conscription.

Bonn's role increased in importance
as the Americans were steadily more
disappointed and the Russians proved
steadily more devious.

Moscow ruthlessly exploited each and
every weakness on Washington's part
but was caught, in the process, in a di-
lemma between regional and global
interests.

Yet the 1970 Moscow treaty with
Bonn proved more than equal to the
strain to which it was subjected, and
Berlin did not reappear among the
world's hot spots.

Bonn's moderating influence on in-
ternational affairs peaked in 1980, when
Helmut Schmidt's visit to Moscow got
the superpowers back on the speaking
terms.

Nato's deploy-and-negotiate resolu-
tion, previously an obstacle to talks, pro-
vided a common basis for discussion.

IN THIS ISSUE

WORLD AFFAIRS Page 2
Nuclear war: can it
be limited?

THE WELFARE STATE Page 8
Blamirak gets ball rolling
and steals march on
socialists

vided the first and
so far only leverage
for negotiations. So
far Bonn and its
ties with Moscow
the comment made
by Mr Allen, Presi-
dent Reagan's na-
tional security advi-
ser, cannot be en-
dorsed. Detente, he
said, had been a
complete failure. In
the European view
such funeral dirges
merely bear out
what William Pfaff
wrote in the *Herald
Tribune*. Nato to-
day, he wrote, is
Continued on page 2



A lot to talk about... Brezhnev and Schmidt in Bonn.
(Photo: Poly-Press)

Reagan deal strengthens Schmidt's hand

Nothing would be a greater mistake
than to imagine that President Re-
agan's disarmament proposals to the
Russians might change the world over-
night. There is certainly no way in which
they will alleviate European nuclear an-
xiety.

Yet the President's proposals, and his
declaration of readiness to reduce to zero
if possible the number of medium-range
missiles based by both sides in Europe,
mark a new quality in the security and
peace debate.

In the wake of a number of confusing
comments by high-ranking US officials,
including Mr Reagan himself, about a
nuclear warning shot or a limited nu-
clear strike an entirely different President
Reagan has emerged.

He has called on world opinion to
witness his commitment to disarmament
as his policy aim, and in so doing he
has done more than just clarify matters.

It is now up to Mr Brezhnev to say
what he really wants.
It is no surprise that Moscow has cho-
sen to dismiss the US offer with alacrity
as a mere propaganda trick and to in-
sist that the Americans want to es-
tablish nuclear supremacy by the back
door, as it were.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Trying to make the inter-
city come to life again

HERITAGE Page 12
Historians 'wrong' about
doom of the Nibelungs

SOCIETY Page 14
Therapy instead of jail
bails of new drug law

This is Kremlin strategy of the kind
with which we are all familiar, but it
would seem reasonable to assume that
Mr Brezhnev flew to Bonn with mixed
feelings as a result.

He already knew what President Re-
gan had in mind from what the President
had previously proposed to him in writ-
ing. But now the world at large knew what
Mr Reagan had suggested and would be
expecting Mr Brezhnev to outline in de-
tail in his talks with Herr Schmidt what
he had to say in reply.

By virtue of President Reagan's pro-
posals Chancellor Schmidt was able to
enter into talks with the Soviet leader
greatly strengthened.

His hand was also strengthened in deal-
ing with fellow-Social Democrats and
non-SPD members of the peace move-
ment who saw disarmament salvation in
unilateral Western moves: a zero option
that would be nothing of the kind.

The zero option Washington and
Bonn have in mind would entail the
West abandoning missile modernisation
using new US devices on condition that
the Soviet Union scrapped its SS-20
missiles aimed at targets in Western Eu-
rope.

This, one is bound to admit, would be
an ideal solution it will be difficult to
accomplish. The Soviet Union envisages
a zero at an entirely different point.

Moscow would like at all cost to re-
tain the arms build-up it has already
undertaken, but at the Geneva confer-
ence table it will have to be cards down
at some stage or other.

In many ways the cards are already on
the table, with President Reagan having
led his highest trump. *Hans Stollhans*

(Liberaler Nachrichten, 20 November 1981)

If there were a war, no-one, neither the US President nor the Soviet head of

Gerd Schmückle

If it failed to do so, Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles would inevitably be deployed in Europe, a development that could only be forestalled by a swinging

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So it is not surprising that the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) remains to be seen. It should be possible to economize elsewhere.

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(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 10. November 1981)

The German Tribune

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HOME AFFAIRS

Runway issue raises basic questions

There is much more at stake than 500 acres of woodland near Frankfurt: that was made obvious from the television pictures of police acting against demonstrators opposed to a new runway for the international airport.

Television carried scenes that looked like civil war: policemen wielding batons against people already clubbed almost unconscious, people who a few moments before had thrown Molotov cocktails at the police.

What is at stake here is fundamental to a democratic society. It raises questions about the relationship between minority groups and the majority; and what means are appropriate in pursuing political aims.

There are two opposing camps: those who stress the legitimacy of the authorities' actions and those who deny this legitimacy.

The group favouring the additional runway argues: The decision-making process has been dragging on for one-and-a-half decades; the state parliament has approved the project and the courts have repeatedly upheld the decision.

Anybody who now yields to pressure from the street and to violence creates a dangerous precedent. In the end, it must become impossible to govern because a militant minority can always be found.

A state in which any mini-group can say "no" to a project and in which the government, notwithstanding its majority in the legislature, can no longer assert itself becomes ungovernable.

The opponents of the runway see it differently: in their view, purely formal legalities suppress justice in Frankfurt.

They regard the expansion of the airport as a crime against the environment ("mother nature is being killed by father state").

The runway has thus become the symbol of resistance against an all-powerful technology — resistance that turns into a rebellion against the state of law and order. This state is simply labelled a "police state" which the opponents of the runway threaten with an "ecological civil war." They are bent on making Frankfurt airport a precedent for the republic as a whole.

Neither of the two camps is free of blame. True, the Hesse government can fall back on the legislators' decision and on court rulings. It has legitimacy on its side.

But did the government adequately take into account that public consciousness has changed in the past years? Has it really done everything to inform and convince the public — as for instance through a large public hearing along the lines of the Gorleben hearing?

Do the members and followers of the government not too obviously have doubts about the correctness of their decision (and perhaps even a bad conscience) to permit them now to adopt an unyielding attitude of self-righteousness?

Above all: Holger Börner's government has created the impression — even among his followers — that he wants to put the public before a fait accompli before the one constitutional possibility, i.e. a referendum, has run its course.

Why? Either the people vote in favour of the government (and 60 per cent are said to be in favour of the additional runway) or they don't. If they do, a delay

of a few months would hardly matter and Börner could face the public with the mandate of the people behind him. This would enable him to go ahead even if this entailed using the full clout of the government.

Should the referendum go against him, the concrete fence around the site would have been erected for nothing and the woods would have been chopped down to no purpose.

But the way things stand it appears as if the opponents are to be denied their constitutional right; and this in turn casts a poor light on our democracy.

Of course, the opponents of the runway are not without blame either. The Wiesbaden demonstration and the handing over of 220,000 signatures in favour of a referendum was democracy in an exemplary fashion. But the ultimatum to the government, the call for a blockade of the airport and the squatting on the nearby motorway demonstrate the hubris of zealots carried away by the fact that they have managed to rally hundreds of thousands of people.

The experience of mass power has evidently led them into believing that they speak for the majority and into taking the law into their own hands.

If a civil servant were to do the same, he would be faced with a public prosecutor's action — as has happened in Frankfurt.

The late realisation on the part of the citizens' initiative that its action has got out of hand cannot undo the riots and the bloodshed in their wake.

So what now? The most important thing is to defuse the situation. The conflict must be prevented from escalating into a civil war. The Wiesbaden government could, for instance, desist from using legalities to stop the referendum; and it could suspend the cutting down of the woods and commencement of construction until the people have had their say.

In return, the opponents of the runway could undertake to suspend demonstrations pending a final outcome. Those who nevertheless take to the streets to riot would then forfeit the right to be treated with kid gloves.

Pending the referendum, there should be an all-out dialogue and information campaign, but no confrontation.

Both sides should undertake to abide by the referendum — regardless of its outcome.

DIE ZEIT

In the final analysis, upholding the constitution is more important than any decision on a specific issue, and there is a point when the full power of authority may be used to safeguard this constitutional order.

Law and justice are not what the most vociferous of rioters would have us believe. They express themselves in the consensus of the majority, although minorities must have their chance to influence the course of things.

It is the duty of politicians to implement the majority decision even if this does not suit their concept — and not only in committee meetings and the corridors of power but also in full view of the public.

In a democracy, the authority of law needs the backing of the citizens. And the use of force is no way of achieving this. And this goes for both the power of the state and that of its critics.

Théo Sommer
(Die Zeit, 20 November 1981)

City is divided as youth club case comes to court



Ten people are being tried on charges of disturbing the peace in Nuremberg.

The charges arise out of incidents on the evening of March 5 and the following morning.

First there was a demonstration against the proposed closure of a youth club known as Komm, during which DM20,000 of damage was caused, mostly to shop windows and car aerials.

Police then raided the club and arrested 172. Some were quickly released but 141 were detained on warrant, some for days, on the ground that they might remove evidence and disappear.

The whole affair is an emotional one and has split the city of Nuremberg into two camps.

Most of the population supports the police action.

But there is a big minority which talks about a scandal. It argues that the mass arrests were out of proportion to the damage and says that many of those held were unconnected with the demonstration.

Subsequently, proceedings against 59 were dropped.

A seemingly unimportant incident shows how unsuited Nuremberg, a provincial metropolis, is for such a trial that could become a precedent case: court room 619 that has been chosen for the trial can accommodate only 75 spectators, and 30 of these seats have been allocated to journalists from all parts of the country.

It is obvious that the courtroom will be crowded to capacity; and even the parents of the accused might find themselves without a seat. Says the mother of one of them: "We'll have to queue up at the crack of dawn — and even then we'll be lucky if we get in."

The parents have demanded that the trial be held in room 600, which is larger and would accommodate more spectators.

But the court has rejected this for understandable reasons: this is the room where the Nuremberg war crimes trials were held, and nobody wants to create a link between a simple trial for disturbing the peace and war crimes.

Only three days before the trial was due to begin a citizens' action group calling itself "Citizens' Initiative 5 March for Basic Rights and Democracy" organised a rally that was attended by 600.

They carried placards that clearly showed that the ultimate objective was more than just justice for the accused. Some of the placards read: "It is the right to demonstrate that is on trial."

Another, more aggressive slogan read: "We cannot force the pigs to tell the truth; but we can force them to lie even more brazenly."

A police officer said this was defamatory and demanded the removal of the placard.

Eye witness reports are conflicting, policemen say that the objectionable placard was rolled up. But the citizens' initiative says that an agreement had been reached with the police to cut out the word "pigs" and that this was done.

Half an hour later, a group of police-

men seized the carrier of the placard and took him to police headquarters.

The demonstrators split and a group of about 150 to 200 marched to the station where they demanded his release.

A head-on clash seemed imminent, but eventually the situation calmed down. The demonstrators accused each other of provocation, and the end of this incident.

The Citizens' Initiative 5 March was organised by the accused, their lawyers and because they felt that the only way they could get something against the all-powerful police.

The fact is that the individual and his family are at a disadvantage. Since a lawyer may defend only one client there were not enough lawyers for the whole of Bavaria who were asked to take on the cases and some had to seek legal counsel from other terms.

Nobody knows how long the trial will take. It could be anything from four weeks. And costs will amount to thousands of Deutschmarks each.

To ensure that the public is fully informed on the course the trial takes and not only through the information released by the press office of the Nuremberg judiciary — well-known from all parts of the country will be at the trial as observers, among them the Constitutional Court Justice Hirsch.

Rejection of lawsuit causes controversy

The publication of a recent decision of the Constitutional Court has caused controversy: a screening committee of three turned down a constitutional lawsuit in connection with the Nuremberg incident on the grounds that there is no adequate prospect of success.

But this must not be construed to mean that the arrest warrants issued in Nuremberg were legal or even constitutional.

Yet many newspapers wrote that the Constitutional Court justices had upheld the 141 arrest warrants.

Commented the mother of one of the accused: "All I could think when I read that was: that's the end. It's finally having to live in constant fear that son will take these newspaper reports too seriously."

Dr Erich Küchenhoff, professor of administrative law, warns of such "horror stories," saying that the Constitutional Court itself was outraged at this interpretation and that it had followed the original statement with a press release to put an end to false interpretations. — a unique action for the Court to take.

Still, the mood among those in the dock is depressing. Too often and vociferously has it been said in the past that it is the judiciary that is in the dock in Nuremberg, judges and public prosecutors are being brought down and are being accused of having been misled by the police to cut out the word "pigs" and that this was done.

Half an hour later, a group of police-

FINANCE

'Self help the key' for developing countries

Developing countries must make use of their own potential rather than relying on development from outside, Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer said in Berlin.

At the very beginning, this had been the basic idea of development aid, said the Minister.

The industrial nations, Opec and developing countries were urged to work for peaceful and lasting solutions, a just distribution of resources and an adequate standard of living in all parts of the world. This was the most important task in international politics.

Matthöfer told the 36th International Congress of the Junior Chamber (Jaycees International). The past years had seen a widening of the gap between the richest and the poorest countries in both absolute and relative terms.

The annual per capita income in the industrial nations rose from US\$5,600 in

Tight rein on investment

Investors will be restrained next year by the economic outlook, says the Institute for Economic Research.

Though the Institute's latest survey of investment intentions for next year shows an increase of four per cent over this year, adjusted for inflation the actual investment volume in 1982 will be four per cent lower.

This means that the decline will not be reversed. And should economic conditions improve markedly in the next months it is even possible that investment plans will be reviewed and volume upped.

Globalisation as the ultimate objective of investment is gaining in importance. The motivating elements here are technological developments and the entry

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1960 by about US\$5,000 to US\$10,700 in 1980 (in real terms).

During the same period, incomes in the poor developing countries rose by only US\$70 (from US\$180 to US\$250).

Herr Matthöfer named the following most important tasks:

- Basic needs like food, clothing, shelter and health care must be ensured for all;

- The dependence of the developing countries on expensive imported oil must be reduced through new sources of energy; and

- The natural ecosystems must be preserved and growing erosion — especially desert encroachment — must be stopped. One of the great problems, the Minister said, was to achieve unity on the strategy to be used in the pursuit of these aims.

After 30 years of development policy, it is becoming obvious that "the developing countries must make use of their own potentials rather than expecting development to be injected from outside in the form of capital, education and technology."

In a moment of self-criticism, the Finance Minister added that the volume of public sector development aid was still inadequate, saying "... and I expressly include the Federal Republic of Germany." By the same token, he pointed out that:

- Development aid spending in this country continues to rise disproportionately to other budget items;

- The Federal Republic of Germany is the most important donor country for

Pessimism in the Ruhr

The mood of the Ruhr area business community has reached an all-time low, say the region's chambers of commerce and industry.

The recovery forecast for the autumn did not happen.

Only one year ago last autumn, 20 per cent of the businessmen assessed the situation as bad, says the chamber's autumn survey. By the spring of this year that had risen to 34 per cent. Now it is 44 per cent.

The 1,225 businesses that were included in the survey gave the following reasons for the continuing decline: rising costs, high interest rates, declining profits, falling domestic demand and months of contradictory discussions on the rehabilitation of public sector finances and the removal of obstacles to investment.

But the survey also shows that there were improvements in our foreign trade — primarily due to exchange rate changes.

This has enabled the Ruhr area business community to improve its competitiveness.

But the 23 per cent export quota in the manufacturing industry is not enough to buttress a sagging business performance.

The various branches of industry differed widely in their assessment of the situation. The evaluation of the basic materials and capital goods industry was particularly negative. Here, more than two-thirds of the respondents described their situation as "poor".

the 30 or so poorest developing countries; and

- It is earnestly trying to provide aid in a form that would best serve the interests of the recipient countries.

Herr Matthöfer said that what mattered was to strengthen the developing countries' own sense of responsibility and to remove obstacles to development such as religious taboos, waste, corruption, exploitation and human rights violations.

Otto Wolff von Amerongen, president of the Standing Conference of German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that new accents and priorities were needed in the North-South dialogue.

Like Matthöfer, he warned of a "pointless hardening of the North-South front" which, in the past had led the world up a blind alley.

Neither the one-sided demands of many developing countries nor the defensive strategy of the industrial nations had led to a breakthrough so far, he said.

Von Amerongen called for a close cooperation between the emerging national economies of the Third World and international organisations aimed at creating a broad and reliable framework for development.

But providing open markets for the goods of the Third World was more than just removing tariff and administrative barriers, he said.

To achieve this, the Third World would have to improve its production facilities and establish export companies. Moreover, foreign investment alone is no cure-all in the bid for industrial progress.

The 4,800 Jaycees from 90 different countries who gathered to discuss problems of the world economy made this the biggest and most international congress of its kind ever to be held in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Heinz Heck/Peter Weertz
(Die Welt, 11 November 1981)

The economy: seeking the culprit

Businessmen are always complaining about the economic situation, diminishing profits, rising costs and lack of capital. They agree that the future looks bleak, and they blame excessive wage demands and short-sightedness of politicians who burden them with ever new taxes and levies.

Trade unionists, by contrast, speak of mass unemployment without a silver lining, diminishing wages in real terms and growing stress at work.

They blame it all on the business community's greed for profit and on economic policy makers who refuse to listen to the trade unionists' sound advice.

Economic research institutes now also see only growing unemployment, less will to invest and rising inflation rates.

When it comes to distributing blame, they usually spread it pretty equally between business, the trade unions and the politicians.

We have once more been seized by a mood in which nobody, except government representatives, whose job it is to be optimistic, is prepared to admit that the situation could change for the better.

Pessimism and despondency prevail. Politicians, unionists, businessmen and economic researchers keep confirming this bleak outlook to each other. And since everybody can point to the others in substantiating his own lacklustre view, it is generally assumed that the pessimism is warranted.

It is, as things stand at the moment; but must it remain so?

Public consciousness always shows traits of manic depression. It always seesaws between exuberant optimism and deep pessimism. In such a situation, it is meaningless to point to the economy's own recuperative forces.

This even applied in the days of high growth rates and labour shortages. That was the time when erudite books on the disastrous consequences of unbridled growth sold like hot cakes.

It was the time when many prophets of doom believed that disaster could only be averted by artificially checking the boom.

It was also the time when many economists felt that German labour market problems could only be solved by recruiting millions of foreign workers.

The situation regarding energy is similar. Days of hysterical prophecies of crisis and doom are followed by times when we lull ourselves into a feeling of false security. All it takes is a few months of an oil glut and a drop in petrol prices by a couple of pennies to brush aside warnings as coming from people who habitually cry wolf ... until the next crisis.

And as to public sector finances, this year has seen warnings of disaster and minimising of the problems in rapid succession. But this is hardly the atmosphere in which to develop a long-term strategy with which to overcome the problems.

The same applies to the economy as a whole. The next upswing is sure to come — and it will come the sooner the quicker we rid ourselves of the idea that the only way things can go is downward.

Michael Jungblut
(Die Zeit, 4 November 1981)

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■ INDUSTRY

Textile workers protest as jobs vanish by the thousand

About 25,000 textile workers took part in a rally in Bonn to draw attention to their industry's plight.

It is likely that by the end of the year, there will be 70,000 fewer workers in the industry than at the end of last year.

A secretary of the textiles and clothing workers union, Alfred Hänel, says: "Imagine the hue and cry if 70,000 steel workers were sacked at one fell swoop."

There is no doubt that there would be an uproar.

The loss of 70,000 jobs in iron and steel would mean, for instance, a total shutdown in the Saar, which has 38,000 steelworkers, and the closure of Hoesch in Dortmund too, with its 21,000 jobs.

Alternatively Thyssen, a leading manufacturer, Peine Salzgitter, a state-owned company, and Klöckner — all large companies — would have to go to the wall.

Yet will there be a hue and cry over the 70,000 textile jobs? No.

The reasons are easily outlined. The 200,000-odd steelworkers are employed by about a dozen large companies and represented by the largest trade union in the country.

The half a million textiles and clothing workers are employed by well over 5,000 small firms and backed by a much smaller union.

This year Bonn has promised the steel industry DM1.8bn in subsidies to prevent mass redundancies.

Management and staff of the textile industry, in contrast, have been told by Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff how wonderful the free market economy is.

Berthold Keller, general secretary of the 300,000-strong textile workers union, has arranged for the protest in Bonn.

It was not the first time they had drawn attention to their plight. Factory

'Gatt agreement has failed to protect home industry'

meetings, platform debates and local protest gatherings have been held since September to get the message across to local and state politicians and Bonn MPs.

Letters and personal visits have been written and paid to persuade political leaders in Bonn that something must be done to improve matters.

A year ago a one-hour token strike was held to draw attention to the plight of weavers and spinners, tailors, cutters and finishers.

So far the cumulative effect of all these moves has been most unsatisfactory as far as union officials are concerned.

The Bonn rally will be the climax for the time being of the trade union's campaign for job security in textiles and clothing. It coincides with the Geneva Gatt talks on a new international textiles agreement.

The outcome of the renegotiations will be of crucial importance for the future of the domestic industry and its workers.

The current international textiles agreement, regulating the trade in textiles and clothing between developing and industrialised countries, runs out at



the end of this year. It will have been in force for four years.

While generally upholding the principle of free world trade in textiles it imposed quotas on a number of sensitive products.

Twenty-eight developing countries that signed the agreement were affected by them. They include Hong Kong, India, China, Yugoslavia, Poland, Singapore and the Philippines.

They are allotted export quotas for their trade in the scheduled products, while the European Community countries are allotted import quotas for them.

The outgoing agreement included an average annual growth rate of six per cent for the exporting countries.

The German union says the agreement has failed, by any stretch of the imagination, to live up to its original purpose, which was to protect home industry.

So the union's demands are not only for a new agreement to be negotiated but also for substantially improved terms, such as quota growth rates of one-and-a-half per cent per annum.

In the industrialised countries, it argues, growth rates in the consumption of textiles and clothing have been negligible for years.

It would also like to see terms renegotiated not for four years but for ten. This would ensure for the industry a reasonable safety margin within which to reach investment decisions, it feels.

The union would not like to be accused of opposing the developing countries, so it has called for a distinction to be drawn between industrialised developing countries and bona fide developing countries.

It has a point. Fifty-five per cent of textiles and 75 per cent of clothing imported come from one of the four textile giants in the developing world: Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and Macao.

The agreement ought also to include minimum welfare provisions for workers in the industry, provisions that are to apply worldwide.

This, the union argues, would appreciably stem the tide of cut-price textiles.

In its fight to save jobs in the domestic industry the trade union is not alone. The management are with it all the way. It is an entire industry's fight for survival.

Both agree in their assessment of the situation. Both have paid the price of free world trade, and it has been a heavy one for all concerned.

Since the mid-60s the textiles and clothing industry has steadily lost ground, and the trend continues unabated. In 1962 there were 4,381 textiles companies with a payroll of nearly 590,000.

Numbers have since declined almost uninterruptedly. At the end of last year only 2,249 companies were left. Their combined turnover was DM33bn, their payroll a mere 304,000.

In 1966 there were still 406,000 peo-

ple employed by nearly 5,630 clothing manufacturers. By the end of last year only 3,210 were left. Their turnover was DM20.7bn, their payroll 249,000.

In the 70s alone the number of both companies and people working for them in both industries declined by nearly 40 per cent.

Textiles and clothing companies have traditionally been based in areas where there was not much industry and every job counted.

Along the GDR border and in Upper Franconia, the Lower Rhine, the countryside between Münster and the Dutch border, the Bavarian forest and the Swabian Alb regions unemployment is a constant problem.

Well over half the textile and clothing workers are women, and the union suspects that import policies for textiles are pursued without inhibitions because jobs for women are not felt to matter.

The increasing glut of cheap textiles imported have obviously contributed towards the industry's plight.

In the course of the 70s imports increased in value from DM8.7bn to

'It is felt that women's jobs do not matter'

DM25.8bn, or nearly trebled. Exports merely doubled in value, from DM7bn to DM16.3bn.

The surplus of imports over exports more than quadrupled to DM9.5bn.

Yet the Federal Republic of Germany has not only proved a receptive market in which free trade prevailed; domestic manufacturers have also proved competitive internationally.

In both imports and exports the Germans lead the world. On the import side they are ahead of both the United States and France. In exports they have run rings round Italy and France, both countries renowned for their fashions.

Despite this hue and cry over the Geneva talks it must be borne in mind that in textiles the industrialised countries do most business with each other.

For years the major customers of German clothing and textiles manufacturers have been the Dutch, French and Austrians.

For years the Italians, French, Belgians and Dutch were Germany's major suppliers. But the ratings changed markedly in the 70s.

Among countries that export to Germany, Italy and France are now followed by Hong Kong, while Greece is sixth, Yugoslavia tenth and Yugoslavia eleventh.

In many parts of the market imports have long been essential. Tee shirts, for instance, are no longer manufactured in Germany.

Imports account for 93 per cent of underwear and lingerie sold in Germany, while 97 per cent of the country's anoraks were made up abroad.

About 85 per cent of rainwear is imported, as is every other dress and costume, not to mention 90 per cent of men's shirts and 70 per cent of blouses and trousers.

Domestic textiles and clothing companies do much of the importing, by eliminating home jobs, as they readily concede, although no-one is aware of the figures.

Helmut Wienholt of the Retail Importers Association says 45 per cent of imported finished products are imported by home industry.

So both unions and employers' associations in any way advocating protectionism. They feel, indeed, that as pure as the driven snow world where everyone else has a tail towards protectionism.

Many threshold countries have done off domestic markets by imposing virtually insuperable tariff barriers. The offenders here range from Brazil to South Korea.

Even within the European Community not all member-countries are fair. The EEC Council of Ministers says Bonn far exceeds its 28.5-per-cent share of Common Market clothing textile imports, whilst others take care not to do so.

Germany makes up over 36 per cent of the EEC's total, whereas France, taking at best, so the management have to pull up its socks if it is to compete with the staff.

Germany also stresses that the pressure by the banks will guarantee the survival of the concern for only a few years.

In 1983, AEG, whose balance sheet stood with a loss five times since 1979, was expected to stand on its own feet.

German representatives at the EEC certainly seem to have failed to convince the others of the benefits to be derived from unfettered trade.

The attitude taken by Count Lambsdorff is diametrically opposed to the viewpoint held by his French counterpart, and this failure to agree has condemned the Common Market Council to inactivity in Geneva.

They are bound by the terms of the Treaty of Rome to speak with one voice and if unable to arrive at a common denominator have no choice but to do nothing at all, which is hardly likely to improve their position at the Geneva talks.

Count Lambsdorff is in favour of continuing with the terms of the outgoing agreement, where as his colleagues in Britain, France, Italy and Belgium would like to negotiate cutbacks.

Their aim is to persuade the conference to reduce their import quotas to the trends in consumer demand.

A compromise now seems possible. It would be continuation of the old agreement.

'German failure to put over free-trade argument'

ment followed by bilateral agreements with exporting countries on import restrictions.

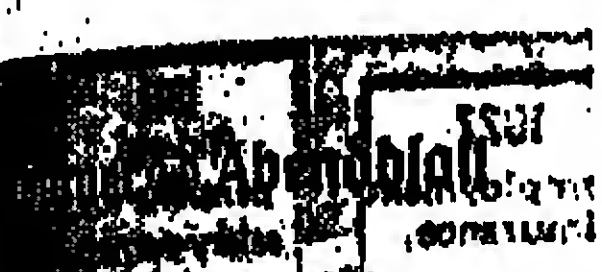
For both the union and the employers in Germany this is anything but a most satisfactory solution. Hardly any of the demands they share can be met by bilateral talks.

So the union is already thinking in terms of its next rally but one.

"If the EEC Council of Ministers agrees on a viewpoint that is too far removed from the trade union position," says Herr Hänel, "there will be a gathering in Brussels attended by representatives of textile workers from all over Europe."

■ BUSINESS

Mixed feelings over new AEG rescue



by experience, the staff of AEG received the news of the rescue action by a consortium of banks with mixed feelings.

The staff has become used in a few years to negative forecasts and positive ones only half as good as best. So the management have to pull up its socks if it is to compete with the staff.

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Big steel deal pops at the rivets

But it has not yet been decided whether Hoogovens will enter into another steel marriage with a German company.

Krupp, however, is reluctant to burden a new steel merger with problems that would arise from any solution involving a foreign company.

The Hoogovens executive says that the German-Dutch marriage has been a disappointment, and that the lack of integration within the EEC.

The next (third) round of talks between Krupp and Hoogovens is expected to start in the near future.

Naturally, all of these measures will mean further redundancies. But some of the laid off staff might find jobs with future AEG partners.

It is obvious that the staff have every reason to worry. Dürr is the only person involved who is always optimistic.

When Emil Rathenau founded the company in 1883, it was called German Edison Co. and manufactured light bulbs.

Rathenau, the son of a Berlin businessman, studied engineering in Zurich and earned his first money as a draftsman at the Borsig Co.

But light bulbs did not fulfil Rathenau and, in 1887, he renamed his company *Allgemeine Electricitäts Gesellschaft* (AEG) — a company to which Germany subsequently owed a great deal on its road to becoming an industrial nation.

AEG's products ranged from ship's propulsion via locomotives and streetcars all the way to heating appliances, telephone cables and wireless telegraphy.

The company was a pioneer in the electrification drive for Germany; and power stations which AEG built in China around the turn of the century are still fully operational.

One of AEG's strengths lay in the manufacture of streetcars; and even before the turn of the century the company was instrumental in developing the tram network of Nuremberg, Lübeck, Leipzig, Kiel, Danzig, Plauen, Königsberg, Altenburg, Spandau and Oslo.

The 1930s were boom years, with the company venturing into new technical territory, and in the 1960s it earned its last pioneering laurels by inventing the PAL territory television system.

But the early 1960s also marked the beginning of the decline when the home appliance expert Hans Bühler became the company's chief executive and wasted a lot of money through bad investment.

Possessed by unbridled greed, Bühler (whose wastefulness was later rewarded when he was made chairman of the Supervisory Board) bought up close to 50 medium-sized consumer goods manufacturers.

Advantages of a tripartite solution in the German steel industry

Rohweder confirmed that a link-up with Krupp's Stahl had priority for Hoesch and that talks at the Bonn Finance Ministry on subsidies for a new German steel merger will begin on 23 November.

This means that objectives have to be agreed upon before the end of the year though many details might remain open.

Neither a merger nor a link-up with Krupp's Stahl had priority for Hoesch, Dr Rohweder said. "We have made a complete evaluation as yet but it was obvious that it is impossible to integrate the whole of Krupp's steel into the Hoesch structure."

The next (third) round of talks between Krupp and Hoogovens is expected to start in the near future.



Chief executive Heinz Dürr... the lonely optimist. (Photo: AEG-Telefunken)

It was under him that the former classical maker of capital goods became topheavy on the consumer goods side. This was particularly dangerous because good quality vacuum cleaners or heating appliances can also be made by low wage countries. But this was not all.

AEG had a hard time getting off the ground again after war's end. Unlike its main competitor, Siemens, the end of the war saw AEG with a mere 10 per cent of its production facilities.

Nine factories in East Berlin and the GDR were lost, and the company had to write off assets worth one billion reichsmarks.

All that remained for the company in the West was the factories in Nuremberg, Stuttgart and Mülheim/Ruhr.

The new start had to be financed by borrowing and the company now finds itself saddled with a debt burden of DM5.6bn.

Post-1945 sales grew fairly steadily but profits — even in good years — lagged behind those of Siemens.

Things were different in the company's first 50 years. For instance, between 1894 and 1900 the payroll quintupled, and AEG's 17,000 workers accounted for a business volume of 100m marks. Sales rose sixfold in as many years.

There was no such steep rise after World War II. In fact, it is eight years since AEG paid its 110,000 stockholders a measly dividend of five per cent. Ever since, they have wound up empty-handed.

Burkhard Salchow
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 9 November 1981)

No change in Siemens' dividend

Considering the company's poor performance, Siemens should have reduced its latest dividend payment. But the management was reluctant to broadcast its weakness and decided to pay the same dividend it had been paying for years: DM8 per share.

But the money had to come from somewhere, and in this instance it was the open reserves that were pared down. The dividend was maintained for the sake of the company's international standing and reputation.

But the problems are there for all to see.

It became evident in the summer that profits, which had been declining for years, had arrived at the modest level of 1.5 per cent.

Naturally, this led to speculation that Siemens' star was waning and one magazine came up with the headline "The giant that overslept".

The stock market, with its unerring nose, responded promptly.

There was a time when no portfolio was considered complete without Siemens, the bluest of blue chips. This was due, among other things, to the traditionally high regard in which the Siemens management was held as a paragon of soundness and continuity.

But as soon as the first tremors reached the market, Siemens stock began to drop. At the beginning of this year, shares were still quoted at DM269. Now they have dropped to DM200.

There are essentially two key areas that account for the diminished profits: data processing and plant components are in the red to the tune of half a billion.

After the unavoidable teething problems, data processing seemed to be approaching the point where it would break even. But here Siemens had to compete with the American giant IBM — a formidable task.

In the plant components sector things looked promising to start with. The company's policy was directed at growth and acquisition.

All went well until the general state of the economy thwarted plans.

Due to the world-wide economic decline, the plant components sector found itself in straits. Massive undercutting by foreign competitors led to considerable losses and forecasts now have to be reviewed. Siemens is trying to remedy the situation by adopting streamlining and reorganizing. It could be said that "nobody can fight the general economic doldrums. But there is more to it!" The public suddenly learned of friction among the top echelon of Siemens.

Rebuffed in the data processing sector went off relatively smoothly, but the replacement of the head of the plant components division caused a considerable shake-up in the company's management.

This shake-up was not only a sign of conflict among the executives of major corporations, but it also did not include Siemens in a shake-up.

There is a shake-up in the plant components sector. Siemens stands on the brink of a major restructuring and is therefore likely to face a difficult fight with other plant component manufacturers.

(Münchener Morgen, 13 November 1981)

Atomic power supply

Percentage of total capacity by company

Company	1980 (%)	1987 (%)
EVS	32	41
NWK	29	46
Bundeswerk	23	34
Protonselektro	21	27
HEW	15	41
RWE	12	31
Bayernwerk	12	42

planned

1987

1980

EVS

NWK

Bundeswerk

Protonselektro

HEW

RWE

Bayernwerk

RWE

Franken-Werk E-Werk

NWK

Northwest Kraftwerke

HEW

Hamburgische E-Werk

EVS

Engelwerkzeug Schwab

1980

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Trying to make the inner city come to life again

Twenty-one European countries are competing in a Council of Europe drive on urban renewal that is to end with a full-scale conference in Berlin early next year.

Five German cities have been entered, including a Karlsruhe suburb, Ettlingen and Burghausen.

Ettlingen, near Karlsruhe, is a medium-sized town where much of the rebuilding has been the work of private enterprise. Burghausen is a historic small town in Upper Bavaria.

All three, the city, the medium-sized town and the small town, have sought in different ways to counteract inner suburb decay and make town life desirable again.

The Karlsruhe suburb is still known as Dörfle, or the village it once was, even though it consists mainly of six- to eight-storey tenement blocks.

There can be no mistaking the mark the bulldozers have made on the area. Nine hundred new apartments have been built and 3,000 people rehoused in the first stage of redevelopment.

Housing on small lots that was in bad shape, with poor plumbing, has been replaced by attractive town apartment blocks, but by and large the new residents are newcomers to the area.

The first overall development plan, drawn up in the 60s, envisaged high-rise blocks reminiscent of the Manhattan skyline, but they never left the drawing-board.

After years of dispute over development proposals and a subsequent planning competition Karlsruhe managed, by the skin of its teeth, to avoid having the entire atmosphere of the city ruined.

In the mid-70s a rethink began. The aim was no longer to raze entire districts to the ground but to refurbish existing property that was in good shape. Priority was given to maintaining architectural substance, and in the Dörfle district this has been done wherever possible.

Over a 16-hectare (40-acre) area two-thirds have been slum-cleared and the remainder modernised.

New blocks have been built to a uniform height, and green and quiet courtyards make them a pleasure to live in.

The exterior of new buildings has been designed to harmonise with the general appearance of urban architecture in Karlsruhe too.

In nearby Ettlingen, population 36,000, rebuilding the town centre presented fewer problems even though it did not have the DM100m-plus the Federal and state governments have invested in the Karlsruhe project over a 10-year period.

Ettlingen is an example of how, with skilful town planning, private invest-

ment exceeding DM120m can be promoted at little cost to the taxpayer.

The amount so far invested by the municipality has been a mere DM4m, which is roughly what it costs to build a small gym nowadays.

Yet Ettlingen has preserved its mediaeval character without coming to look more like a museum than a living community. It is a confusing pattern of narrow streets that have been pedestrian precincts for centuries.

Very sparing use has been made of concrete, glass and steel. Residents were consulted at an early stage in the planning — and not just the public in general but people directly affected, such as the old-age pensioner, the milkman and so on.

Burgomaster Erwin Vetter says the town has developed a new awareness of itself as an entity that would make short shrift of plans to change the face of Ettlingen by building, say, a department store that did not fit into the pattern.

The town has consistently opposed plans to set up shopping centres on the outskirts: Ettlingen town centre was to remain the focal point of local life.

None of the 1,000 residents of the redeveloped area has been forced to move out — neither by the planners nor by high rents in the new apartments.

Shops, offices and housing have been combined to ensure reasonable rents.

This mixture has been sustained consistently that families even live in the Rathaus, or town hall.

Powers of planning permission were not exercised to ensure that units were in the required design (half-timbered).

Instead, the municipality bought the plots that were earmarked for development, planned the projects and sold them.

In Burghausen, on the border between Bavaria and Austria, the Altstadt, or mediaeval town centre, looked like this 100 years ago.

Young people and shops moved to the Neustadt, or new town, where there was no shortage of parking lots and cellars and ground floors of the buildings were not flooded every year.

Redeveloping Burghausen proved particularly difficult because the number of buildings listed as historic monuments ruled out ideas that might have cut cost by means of wholesale demolition.

Besides, an embankment had to be built to end the flooding, and it took the river side of the little old town look even more squat, with flat windows at ground level.

To restore the old proportions buildings had an extra storey added on the river side, but it was added in such a way as to ensure that the town side of the buildings looked unchanged.

To upgrade the town centre and 4,000 residents Burghausen decided to make extra municipal grants to families and shopowners who moved.

Since 1975 the trend to move out of town has been reversed. In Burghausen, shops and offices in the Altstadt are in brisk demand. *Gerd Rauten*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 10 November 1981)

PHILOSOPHY

Friends of Schopenhauer gather in suffering

Schopenhauer Society, Germany's largest philosophical society, and its 70th anniversary with a

Society, which has been headed by Hübcher for the past 45 years, is not restricted to experts but is open to all friends of Schopenhauer, and members from all parts of the country.

At the same time, the renowned Schopenhauer Archives of Frankfurt's University Library, opened a new wing and organised a series of lec-

ture director Klaus Dieter Lehmann underscored Schopenhauer's great importance and his timelessness, which, he said, was more evident than ever before.

Schopenhauer's works have been translated into 24 languages, and now he is to be coming at us from the future, he said.

Wagner found his ideas about music confirmed by Schopenhauer and adopted the philosopher's "metaphysics of will." Wagner, Gregor-Dellin told the congress, was happy to be able to admit to himself at last that the world was evil.

Tristan and Isolde seek deliverance in death from the inanity of the world. In his *Parifal*, Wagner comes very close to Schopenhauer's ascetic solution.

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characterised the world as a "mutual erotic deception."

The life of Man's impostor, Felix Krull, rests on lies and deception — but then, life would be insufferable without illusions.

It is here that Thomas Mann's art comes into its own. Thomas Buddenbrook is a typical "hero of weakness" along Schopenhauer lines and a prime example of Thomas Mann's "pessimistic humanism."

Musicians were perhaps even more influenced by Schopenhauer. In fact, no other philosopher is as revered by them. Music is more direct than language in conveying the "will" and true conditions in the world.

Martin Gregor-Dellin, Munich, drew attention to Schopenhauer's maxim that "music is the melody and the world the text."

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Objection to the Clausewitz formula



Carl von Clausewitz... often quoted

plementation, does that not amount to the paradoxical question as to whether it is possible to live for ever on credit?

Many an interpreter of Clausewitz, for whom military considerations were subordinate to political reason, will naturally say: What should we pin our hopes on if not on reason?

It indeed appears to be the paradox of our era that the very possibility of mass destruction — even without an explicit threat — curtails the actual use of violence.

In retrospect, it can certainly be said that events of the past 150 years would have been less dominated by purely mil-

itary considerations if politicians in general had abided by the Clausewitz formula.

A German general, Ewald Heinrich von Kleist-Schmenzin, said after the Second World War that the Clausewitz axiom to the effect that political factors are more important than military ones was too little heeded by the Germans in particular.

"The Germans made the mistake of thinking that political problems can be solved by military success. Under the Nazis, we were about to reverse the Clausewitz formula and view peace as a continuation of war."

Curiously, it is the military in particular who differ widely in their interpretations of Clausewitz's works. But this might be due to the fact that *On War* is ambiguous in some places.

Even 100 years after his death, the Clausewitz assessment of the difficulties in conquering Russia proved correct.

He said that Russia was not a country that could be conquered in "formal terms" and that it could only be defeated through internal strife.

Napoleon foundered in 1812 because, according to Clausewitz, "the enemy government remained firm and the people loyal."

Hitler did not even attempt to make use of the rudiments of internal disunity that had been caused by Stalinist repression.

Clausewitz's most important function in this century was that of the man who played a major role in shaping the Marxist-Leninist theory of war.

This is highlighted by the notes Lenin made on reading *On War*. They show that he studied this classic only in the light of his foremost objective: the proletarian world revolution.

Rudolf Grimm/dpa

(Mannheimer Morgen, 12 November 1981)

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One standard edition of the *Nibelungenlied*, 27x31 centimetres in format, is eight centimetres thick and weighs four kilograms.

Meticulously edited, it includes the three main manuscripts of the mediaeval epic and copious notes on textual variations.

But that is a mere drop in the ocean compared with the tons of secondary literature written mainly by specialists in Germanic studies to interpret it.

Writers who want to make any impact on this mountain in print must do more than add a few pieces to the mosaic; little short of an avalanche will hit the headlines.

Heinz Ritter, a local historian from Schaumburg, near Rinteln, says the experts have got the story all wrong. Schaumburg borders on Westphalia and it was there, he says, and not in Hungary that the Nibelungs met their doom.

This claim brings to mind the scores of retired teachers in days gone by who spent their declining years trying to prove that the battle in which Arminius defeated the Roman legions of Emperor Augustus took place in their back garden.

In Ritter's case the idea may be less fanciful. Roswitha Wisniewski, a professor of mediaeval German literature at Heidelberg University, feels his work merits serious consideration.

Die Nibelungen zogen nordwärts (The Nibelungs Headed North), his latest book, outlines the results of 20 years of research into the subject.

His aim is merely to identify the historical facts on which the tale is based, but if his theory gains general acceptance current assumptions on how the legend was built up might need revising.

The *Nibelungenlied* is by no means the only mediaeval epic to tell the tale of the Nibelungs. It was put to paper in about 1200, but the story is generally agreed to date back to the post-Roman migration era of the fifth and sixth centuries AD.

The unknown author of the *Nibelungenlied* combined two sagas of Franconian origin which, the experts are convinced, had led a separate existence for centuries.

They were the *Brünhildlied* and the *Burgundensage*. Views differ on whether the former was based on historical events, arguably at the court of the Merovingian kings.

It tells the tale of Siegfried and how he swaps roles to win the proud Brünhilde from King Gunther and how, when the deception comes to light, he is murdered by the king and his brothers.

The latter tells how Kriemhild, Siegfried's widow, marries a King Etzel, who is generally taken to be Attila the Hun, and entices her brothers to visit his court, where they are slaughtered to avenge her late husband.

The *Burgundensage* need not be taken literally. Attila died in 453, whereas Dietrich von Bern, or Theodoric the Great, king of the Ostrogoths, who is portrayed as living at Attila's court, was not born until three years later.

The saga is generally assumed to be an artistic combination of the defeat of the Burgundians and the death of their king, Gundahar, at the hands of the Huns in 436 and the death of Attila on his wedding night.

Attila died, probably of a burst blood vessel, in the night after his wedding to Hildico, a German princess, and the two tales are felt to have been interwoven.

Versions of both sagas have been handed down since the ninth century, so the *Nibelungenlied* can be seen to have evolved in a variety of complicated ways.

Motives and characteristics continually

HERITAGE

Historians 'wrong' about doom of the Nibelungs

change, especially where Kriemhild, Hagen and Attila are concerned.

Initially it was Attila who was keen to set hands on the treasure of the Nibelungs and cunningly invited them to visit him and Kriemhild who avenged their death.

In the *Nibelungenlied* Kriemhild is portrayed as a veritable Satan who persuades Attila to wage war and is generally prepared to commit any misdeed.

Versions of the saga that go along these lines have only been preserved in Scandinavian or Icelandic guise. Their Central and Western European counterparts no longer exist.

In thirteenth-century Scandinavia heroic epics of old were particularly popular. In about 1250 the *Thidrekssaga* was compiled in Norway. It is a collection of tales about Dietrich von Bern (or Theodoric of Verona).

It includes, retold at intervals in the narrative, the same tale as the one told in the *Nibelungenlied*, but on a much more modest scale.

The Nibelungs are called Niflungs. They set out with 1,000 men, and not

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story as they had learnt it from old songs in German.

Heinz Ritter's idea is that the *Thidrekssaga* faithfully retells what happened in sixth-century Westphalia, whereas the *Nibelungenlied* mistakenly takes the Niflungs to be the Burgundians.

In reality, he claims, the Nibelungs did not reside in Worms. They never crossed the Danube into the land of the Huns. They never fought Attila.

His argument is based on a remarkable discovery. On their way to the land of the Huns, the saga says, the Niflungs passed a point where the Duna flowed into the Rin, in other words, the confluence of the Rhine and the Danube.

Geographically the two rivers never meet, whereas Ritter has shown that until 1840 a river Dhün flowed into the Rhine north of Leverkusen, near Cologne.

The Dhün was then rerouted into the Wupper. If this part of the original tale makes sense after all, Ritter argues, the rest is worth taking another look at.

He set out on a voyage of discovery backed financially by the North Rhine-Westphalian Ministry of Science and Research. He compared names, checked distances and estimated times.

His conclusion is that the Nibelungs' castle must have been in Virmich, near Zölzich, in the northern Eifel hills. Their name is derived from a river, the Neffel.

Bechelaren Castle, called Bakalar in the *Thidrekssaga*, where Margrave Rüdiger lives is Burg Berge, near Altenburg in the Bergisches Land district.

Both of these places are not far from Bonn.

King Thidrek, who lives in exile with Attila, is, at least as far as the section on the Nibelungs' catastrophe is concerned, not Theodoric the Great but the exiled king of an empire near Bonn.

Bonn was known until the Middle Ages as Bern, or Verona.

Ritter has even unearthed archaeological evidence in support of his theory. Graves have been found both in Zölzich and in Soest that prove both places to have been power centres in the post-Roman migration period.

In Soest there is the grave of a woman whose costly jewels include a brooch with a runic inscription that could, with a little good will, be read as Atala.

Could it be a parting gift from Attila to Kriemhild after he had had her executed as the instigator of the entire catastrophe?

The final episode of the *Thidrekssaga* does not occur in the *Nibelungenlied*. It tells how Hagen sires a son on the eve of his death who avenges the Nibelungs.

He is bequeathed by Hagen the keys to Siegfried's cellar where the treasure of the Nibelungs is kept. He entices the avaricious Attila to go down into the cellar, locks him in and leaves him to die of hunger.

In 1926, in a rock cave 15 miles from Soest, the remains of a man who had died without being buried were discovered.

Between them they had related the

vered. They may well have dated the period in question.

Traces of a counterfeiter's work dating back to the days of the 7 Years' War were also found. Was Nibelungs' treasure discovered and ten down alongside Attila's corpse?

It remains to be seen whether the parts will take Ritter seriously enough to consider his theory more carefully. No coincidence that Professor

niewski has called on them to do so. She was a student of the Nibelung specialist Helmut de Boor. In her of the sources of the epic, entitled *Das Niflungengedächtnis*

der *Thidrekssaga*, she tries to prove the saga drew on a source it shared with the *Nibelungenlied*.

For anyone who is interested in logical jigsaw puzzles she tells an ongoing story. It is that this other source came from the Soest area but, the common source, was based on an earlier text.

Ritter points out that there is a dish version of the *Thidrekssaga* in relation to the Norwegian one. It is shared and has in the past been dismissed as a late copy of the Norwegian version.

Ritter points out that some of the legends were officially part of the system because the response has been so favourable.

Just before Christmas, the class will deal with the Weimar Republic and the grandparents will be asked to tell the children how they coped with the economic crisis then.

Elizsa Erbstößer: "We'll deal with such specific things as what people ate at Christmas, what presents they gave, whether special poems were recited and how the people coped with inflation."

The grandmothers will bake old-fashioned Christmas biscuits while the grandfathers will describe how they decorated the home.

The subject scheduled for January is the Third Reich.

Just before the children are due to graduate, the parents will also be invited to enable three generations to discuss the effects the programme has had on the students' appreciation of history.

Elizsa Erbstößer is confident: "The children have come to realise that history is not something abstract but involves lives and destinies. They no longer yawn."

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 November 1981)

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But despite all these complaints, very few of those concerned would like to drop on-the-job training; 79 per cent of the parents, 87 per cent of current and 60 per cent of former *Hauptschule* students even asked for longer practical training courses.

Ninety-three per cent of the students rejected any scrapping or shortening of the courses.

The value of such training is demonstrated by the fact that parents and former students say that on-the-job experience ranks second only to instruction in mathematics and German. They consider on-the-job training as an important element of preparation for a working life.

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A. Pieper (Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 11 November 1981)

children, should get practical job training, says State Secretary Hermann Granzow of the Interior Ministry.

Mr Granzow deplores the fact that training is obligatory only for students at comprehensive schools and *Hauptschule* (secondary school preparing for the trades) but not for other secondary school students.

Unfamiliarity with practical work in business must not become a characteristic of secondary school students, says Granzow.

A study prepared by a research team at Dortmund University shows that students, parents, teachers and the business community are greatly interested in such training.

But those who took part in such training showed signs of disappointment at the end of it. The firms that undertook to train students felt that they were left to fend for themselves and the students themselves spoke of lack of

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Grandpa tells it as it happened

Hannoversche Allgemeine

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So there are still many questions answered and loose ends to be tied. But whatever the results, the experience of the implementation and evaluation of the courses by both schools and companies.

Another major shortcoming was that

most teachers were unfamiliar with the realities of work in a business enterprise because they themselves had no first hand experience of it.

But despite all these complaints, very few of those concerned would like to drop on-the-job training; 79 per cent of the parents, 87 per cent of current and 60 per cent of former *Hauptschule* students even asked for longer practical training courses.

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Opinions vary on role of the teacher

Parents and teachers see eye to eye on most issues. But not on what should be a teacher's most important function, according to a study prepared by the Institute for Teacher Training in Mainz.

The survey involved 296 teachers at 12 Rhineland-Palatinate schools and 5,673 parents.

"What do you consider a particularly important function of the teacher?" was one of the questions. Three answers were possible: Conveying knowledge and skills; helping develop the personality; or accurate assessment of a child's performance.

Close to 60 per cent of the teachers ticked "helping develop the personality". "Accurate assessment" was the least important (10 per cent).

The parents' answers were exactly the opposite: 41.1 per cent ticked "Accurate assessment". "Helping develop the personality" was at the bottom with 15 per cent.

A similar difference became evident with the question as to the most important qualities of a teacher where there were 19 possible answers to choose from.

The most prevalent answer among teachers was "teaching ability" while the parents again opted for "justice"; though in this case, justice ranked second with the teachers.

The study concludes that there is a "conflict of roles between teachers and

parents that must be discussed and overcome."

One interesting aspect that transpired was that 58 per cent of the parents who wanted to have an active part in the upbringing of their children rather than leaving it to the school belonged to the working class.

(Die Welt, 6 November 1981)

Children can rid themselves of their conscious and unconscious fears by expressing them in paintings and drawings.

Those who are denied an opportunity to express themselves can harm not only themselves, but their environment as well, says Hanna Over, 36, who has opened northern Germany's first studio for expressive painting.

All children should be given an opportunity to express themselves pictorially, she says.

The child sees the painting studio as "a room sealed off from the rest of the world, a protective cave, so to speak," says Frau Over.

The studio enables the children to enjoy what they are doing undisturbed by outside influences.

The idea of expressive painting was first evolved by the Frenchman Arno Stern, who, after the Second World War, took meandering children to his studio and made them paint and express themselves as a way of mastering the chaos and destruction of the war and post-war years.

Hanna Over herself became a student of Stern disciple Bettina Eggers in whose Zurich studio she did a two-year training course.

Frau Over, herself the mother of three children, does not interfere with her charges' flow of expression. She does not tell them what they should paint but only asks them what they would like to put on paper.

In this way, the children learn to pick their own subjects. Once a picture is finished, Frau Over does not evaluate it because any praise or criticism would only hamper free expression and possibly make the child seek the teacher's praise.

"I rejoice in the children's work along with them instead of smothering them with praise," says Frau Over.

Each child's paintings are collected in a special folder "as a protection for the child" because the pictures are part of the child itself and should therefore not be put up on walls by the parents.

Frau Over also refuses to interpret the pictures. She will never ask a child "what are you painting?"

Children are unable to express in words what flows pictorially.

Adults frequently regard children's paintings as worthless because the child is unable to lecture coherently on his works.

But if adults themselves were to take up painting they would soon realise that this form of expression "is an adventure."

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 November 1981)

More practical training urged

The companies complained that they were given no advice on what exactly to do with the students during the three or four weeks of on-the-job training.

Only 22 per cent of the respondents among the business community had training schedules, of which 62 per cent were devised by the companies themselves.

The biggest shortcoming, however, lay in the fact that most students were inadequately prepared for such practical work.

Sixty-nine per cent of the respondents in the business community complained about the students' lack of knowledge about the various occupations and 65 per cent deplored the lack of familiarity with safety regulations.

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